



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 1084

LCO No. 5135



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS AT THE
REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) As used in this section and
2 sections 2 and 3 of this act:

3 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as
4 provided in section 10a-34 of the general statutes; and

5 (2) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
6 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes and includes, but is not
7 limited to, hospital-based occupational schools, barber schools and
8 hairdressing schools authorized pursuant to section 10a-22b of the
9 general statutes.

10 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Board of Regents for Higher
11 Education, in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, shall
12 develop a written definition for all sub-baccalaureate certificates
13 awarded by an institution of higher education or private occupational

14 school in the state for the purpose of creating consistency among the
15 various sub-baccalaureate certificate programs. Not later than January
16 1, 2016, the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education
17 shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
18 general statutes, a report containing such written definition to the joint
19 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
20 matters relating to higher education.

21 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2016,
22 and annually thereafter, each institution of higher education and
23 private occupational school in the state shall provide data for the prior
24 academic year to the Office of Higher Education regarding its sub-
25 baccalaureate certificate programs and the types of sub-baccalaureate
26 certificates it offers in a uniform format developed by said office. Such
27 data shall include, but not be limited to, the following for each sub-
28 baccalaureate certificate program:

29 (1) Name and subject matter area of such program;

30 (2) Total enrollment in such program;

31 (3) Any entry-level requirements for enrollment in such program;

32 (4) Number and type of certificate awarded by such program;

33 (5) Whether academic credits are offered as part of such program;

34 (6) Whether there is a clear pathway from successful completion of
35 such program to enrollment in a related associate degree program;

36 (7) Whether such program leads to an industry-recognized
37 credential;

38 (8) Whether a student can combine the certificate awarded upon
39 successful completion of such program with any other certificate
40 awarded upon the successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate
41 certificate program in order to achieve a heightened level of

42 qualification for a particular trade or occupation; and

43 (9) Average length of time to complete such program.

44 (b) Not later than January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
 45 Office of Higher Education shall compile such data for purposes of
 46 comparing the various types of sub-baccalaureate programs offered by
 47 the institutions of higher education and private occupational schools
 48 and determining (1) which programs are similar, (2) student interest in
 49 each program and similar programs, and (3) the necessity of offering
 50 each program. Not later than July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, said
 51 office shall make such data available on its Internet web site for the
 52 purpose of enabling a student or prospective student to make an
 53 informed decision about whether to enroll in a sub-baccalaureate
 54 program and, if so, which program is the best fit for such student.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require a compilation of data about each sub-baccalaureate program in the state and enable students and prospective students to make an informed decision about whether to enroll in a particular program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]